



**Resident information sheet
Number 8, March 2017**

Highbury Aqueduct Reserve

WHATS HAPPENED SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

It has been a year since our last newsletter and a lot has happened across the reserve in this time. Works have been progressed steadily to allow us to open more of the reserve to the public, and there has been significant work completed in the open sections to improve visitor safety. Below is a brief breakdown on the progress to date.

TRAILS

Thanks must go to the federally funded Green Army teams who worked on the construction of the trail between Mulberry Drive and Boundy Road. We have now been successful in securing a Work for the Dole team to continue the construction through the reserve. The team have helped with laying flagstones at the water crossings to allow easier access across the creeks and are currently working to continue the trail from Mulberry Drive to Linear Park. The team also helped putting the finishing touches on the trail between Historic Drive and Boundy Road which we hope to open to the public soon. Other works around the trails have included a tree risk assessment conducted by ENSPEC to re-evaluate the risk of 792 trees across the reserve, focussing on existing and future trail alignments and neighbouring fence lines. This report will help us prioritise tree management works to keep reserve visitors safe.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Stormwater works between Torrens View Court and Conifer Place in Block 2 held up well considering the above average rainfall this year. We have planted over 1400 native trees, shrubs and grasses to help secure the soil and slow the water movement. The lower section of this gully still requires further work re instating the track from linear park and we are currently exploring options to rectify this.



We have secured funding to clean out blackberry and other woody weeds from the creek line between Country Lane and Filippo Court and re-plant the area with native trees, and shrubs. When this work was started it revealed unexpected erosion damage to the old dam wall. We have now engaged Australian Water Environments (AWE) to design a solution that will include the removal of the dam wall, the installation of a rock chute to slow water-flows down, and the re-establishment of the creek line by revegetating the banks. We are expecting this work to start in May if funding becomes available.

BUSH FOR LIFE SITE

Located off Valley View Drive, the Highbury Aqueduct Bush for Life site was formed in 2013. It currently has 7 active site carers who look after the 2 hectare site. 65 indigenous plant species are found within the Bush for Life site and the site carers work hard preventing various invasive weeds from invading the remnant bush. There are many different activities you could be involved in at Highbury Aqueduct, from woody weed control to fastidious, fine-tuned bush care. Bush for Life is always looking for more volunteers to help protect wonderful remnant bushland. If you think this is something you would be interested in, please contact Megan Lock, BFL Northern Regional Coordinator Field Officer, on 0408 878 075 or meganl@treesforlife.org.au for further information.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The success of the Pioneer Court Community Garden on Historic Drive is evident by taking a leisurely stroll through the orchard's 300 fruit trees, truffle plantation, pumpkin patch, and sensory garden. The group have worked with the Highbury Primary School to install a children's garden and Kiwanis' Action Group to build and plant wheelchair friendly raised wicker box gardens. The garden's membership has now risen to 19 plot holders, 51 financial members, and many more volunteers who are all seen regularly on Friday mornings for working bees followed by morning tea using much of the produce grown on site. Visitors are more than welcome, and if you would like to learn more about the site feel free to come down on a Friday morning and catch up with the members, or speak with Mario Minuzzo, President Pioneer Court Community Garden Inc. on 0411 604 326.



OPEN DAY

Almost a year ago we hosted an open day to help bring the community together and celebrate the completion and opening of the trail from Mulberry Drive to Historic Drive. We had over 120 people attend the day and had stalls provided by Bush for Life, Pioneer Court Community Garden, National Parks and Wildlife, Gawler Natural Resource Centre, and a BBQ cooked by the Hope Valley Scouts Group. It was a great event and we are thankful for the thoughts and feedback we received about the reserve from the community. A big thank you must go to Rob Wicks, the committee of the community garden and Peter Watton and Michelle Garner

from Bush for life, who helped with guided walks through the aqueduct reserve, community garden and Bush for Life sites.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks again to Highbury Primary School for growing native grasses and helping us revegetate the reserve and to the tireless efforts of the Bush for Life and casual volunteers who help with weed control. A special thankyou is reserved for Ann and Graham Simpson who have worked tirelessly in eradicating several species of weeds throughout Block 3 of the reserve.

If you are interested in helping out as a volunteer or you have any queries about the reserve please contact Dave Fraser, Senior Ranger, Natural Resources AMLR, on 8336 0908.